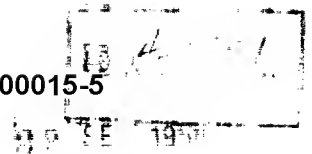


SECRET



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Acting Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Soviet Bloc Forgery Campaign

REFERENCE: Note from Director, USIA, to DCI dated
29 August 1958

1. This memorandum is for the information of the DCI.
2. After consultation with NEA Division, and with the Office of Special Operations, Department of Defense, FP Staff is of the opinion that the letter allegedly written by a U. S. Army Officer stationed in Lebanon, as published in Al-Massa, Beirut, is a forgery.
3. There is no information available in Washington to supplement the official denial issued in Beirut by the Army (attached). The Department of Defense has advised us that in this instance, the overseas command has complete jurisdiction and U. S. Army, Washington, would take no action normally, especially where the letter is obviously a forgery. Defense will furnish us an analysis of the letter and will issue an official denial from Washington if we consider such action desirable and if we provide a copy of the letter.



receipt of the materials, FP Staff will request Defense to furnish us with an analysis of the letter.

5. Since the first few days following publication of the forgery, no further replay by communist media has been noted. It is the opinion of the FP Staff, therefore, that further action is not necessary. An official denial from Washington would afford publicity to an incident which appears now to be forgotten.



Psychological and Paramilitary Staff

Attachment as stated

cc: DDIC

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ILLEGIB

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LEBANON
Aug. 26, 1958

It was understood at a late hour tonight that the revolution and opposition leaders at their meeting tonight discussed the question of declaring the end of the revolution in the country, but they decided to issue the aforementioned statement without declaring the end of the revolution.

U.S. MILITARY DISCOUNTS FALSE LETTER

Beirut, ANA, Radioteletype in Arabic to the Near East, Aug. 25, 1958, 1530 GMT--M

(Text) Beirut--An American military spokesman today declared that the contents of a letter allegedly written by an American officer and published in a paper here today were "absolutely untrue." The paper in question, which is aligned with the opposition, said that the officer--whom it referred to as John H.--had stated that the American forces will remain in Lebanon ten months and that, among the tasks of these forces, is the transformation of Al-Qulayat and Riyaq airports to nuclear bases, and the establishment of missile launching bases in other parts of Lebanon.

Asked to comment on the alleged letter, the American spokesman said: "In the first place, the contents of the letter are entirely false, and as regards the authenticity of the letter itself, it is very unlikely that it was written by an American soldier, because its style indicates that the original tongue of the writer is not English." He added: "We believe that the purpose of publishing the letter is obvious. We cannot regard the alleged letter as something serious."

- 0 -

END OF CENSORSHIP--The Lebanese cabinet today decided to abolish censorship on local and foreign press reports beginning today. This was declared by Minister of Education Farid Quzma. He said the abolition of censorship covers local press reports and foreign press cables. It was learned from authoritative sources that President-elect Fuad Shihab suggested the abolition of press censorship and that several ministers supported his suggestion. (Beirut, ANA, Aug. 25, 1958, 1522 GMT--M)

EXCHANGE OF CABLES--In reply to a congratulatory cable from Arab League Secretary General Abd al-Khalig Hassunah on the occasion of the adoption of the Arab resolution at the U.N. General Assembly, Lebanese Premier Sami as-Sulh said that he is certain that the resolution "will bring abundant good to Lebanon and to the Arab nations, peace and reassurance to the Middle East, and will ease world tension." (Beirut, ANA, Aug. 25, 1958, 1525 GMT--M)

EGYPTIAN PAPERS--Egyptian magazines were sold in Beirut on Aug. 22, for the first time in ten years. (Beirut, ANA, Aug. 22, 1958, 1720 GMT--M)

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

CPP

NO.

DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show to whom. Draw a line across column after each.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

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